

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

NEW I, MIGRANT VISUAL EPILOGUE TO PREMIERE AT BC CULTURE DAYS

Jee Ayaan (Welcome) brings together Punjabi poetry, music and cinema in a powerful reflection on migration, memory, identity and belonging

Delta, B.C. – September 25, 2026 – Audiences will get a special first glimpse of the forthcoming feature documentary *I, Migrant* when its new visual epilogue, *Jee Ayaan (Welcome)*, premieres on the big screen at the **North Delta Centre for the Arts on Sunday, October 4, 2026**, as part of **BC Culture Days**.

Presented through the **Sundar Prize Film Festival's Luminaries Program**, the 3-minute, 30-second cinematic sequence brings together Punjabi poetry, documentary imagery and music to explore **migration, identity, memory, belonging and the meaning of welcome**.

At the heart of the work is *Jee Ayaan (Welcome)*, a poem by acclaimed Punjabi poet **Ajmer Rode**, drawn from *Leela*, the seminal work of Punjabi literature co-authored by Rode and **Navtej Bharati**.

The sequence features **Ajmer Rode, Satwinder Bains, Mehnaaz Maan and Narinder Sharma**, who also appear in *I, Migrant*.

Directed by **Vinay Giridhar** and produced by **Amar Sangha**, the visual epilogue features cinematography by **Bhavesh Chauhan**, and music by celebrated Vancouver-based sitarist and composer **Mohamed Assani**.

"*Jee Ayaan* is about more than arriving in a new country. It asks what it means to be welcomed, what we carry with us when we migrate, and how memory, language and culture continue to shape our sense of home," said Producer **Amar Sangha**.

Director **Vinay Giridhar** said the sequence was conceived as a reflective conclusion to the larger documentary.

"We wanted the epilogue to leave audiences not simply with information about migration, but with a feeling. Poetry gave us a way to express experiences that documentary interviews alone cannot always capture. *Jee Ayaan* brings together image, music, language and memory in a very intimate way."

A FIRST LOOK AT *I, MIGRANT*

Currently in the editing stage and entering post-production, *I, Migrant* is a feature documentary exploring Indian migration to Canada through personal stories, history, identity and the evolving meaning of belonging.

The October 4 screening will give audiences an opportunity to experience one of the documentary's completed creative sequences on the big screen while the feature continues toward completion.

Through the voices of immigrants, artists, cultural figures and community members, *I, Migrant* examines migration not simply as movement from one country to another, but as an experience shaped by memory, family, culture, sacrifice, identity and the search for home.

The presentation of *Jee Ayaan* brings these themes together through a distinctly poetic lens, connecting contemporary documentary filmmaking with one of Punjabi literature's significant works.

PUNJABI LITERATURE MEETS CONTEMPORARY CANADIAN CINEMA

The visual epilogue draws its name and central text from Rode's poem *Jee Ayaan*, meaning "welcome."

The sequence combines the spoken and written tradition of Punjabi poetry with contemporary documentary cinema and music, creating a meditation on what it means to leave one home, enter another and carry cultural memory across generations.

The screening will also bring together several prominent voices featured in the documentary, including **Ajmer Rode, Satwinder Bains, Mehnaaz Maan and Narinder Sharma**.

PART OF A FREE BC CULTURE DAYS CELEBRATION

Jee Ayaan will premiere near the beginning of the afternoon film program during a free day of arts, culture and community programming at the North Delta Centre for the Arts.

The event includes a filmmaking workshop, a youth storytelling showcase, networking, a red carpet, complimentary lunch and refreshments, nine short film screenings and a filmmaker question-and-answer session.

EVENT SCHEDULE

11:30 AM

Doors Open, Coffee, Tea, Snacks and Popcorn

11:45 AM

Welcome

12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

How to Make Your First Film

A free workshop led by filmmakers **Shanthini Balasubramanian** and **Hannah Yang**

1:00 PM to 1:15 PM

Meet the Storytellers

1:15 PM to 2:15 PM

Networking Session, Complimentary Lunch, Red Carpet and Photos

2:15 PM to 4:15 PM

Opening Remarks for BC Culture Days followed by screenings of nine short films with filmmakers in attendance

Jee Ayaan (Welcome) will be among the first works screened.

4:15 PM to 5:15 PM

Filmmaker Question and Answer Session moderated by **Shanthini Balasubramanian**

SCREENING DETAILS

Jee Ayaan (Welcome)

A Visual Epilogue from the Feature Documentary I, Migrant

Date: Sunday, October 4, 2026

Doors Open: 11:30 AM

Film Program Begins: 2:15 PM

Location: North Delta Centre for the Arts

Address: 11425 84 Avenue, Delta, British Columbia

Admission: Free

Official Website

<https://sundarprize.com/bc-culture-days/>

General Public Registration

<https://culturedays.ca/en/hubs/56df4515-db0b-41d7-81d1-5e1ad44d57a4>

ABOUT *I, MIGRANT*

I, Migrant is a feature documentary directed by **Vinay Giridhar** and produced by **Amar Sangha** exploring Indian migration to Canada through the voices and lived experiences of immigrants, community members, artists and cultural figures.

The documentary examines migration through themes of identity, memory, culture, family, sacrifice, displacement, belonging and the meaning of home.

ABOUT SUNDAR PRIZE FILM FESTIVAL

The **Sundar Prize Film Festival** is a Canadian film festival dedicated to socially engaged cinema and to supporting established and emerging filmmakers whose work explores important social, cultural and human issues.

Through screenings, filmmaker conversations, professional development, mentorship and community programming, the festival creates opportunities for filmmakers and audiences to connect through the power of storytelling.

The Sundar Prize Film Festival is an official project of **Sher Pride**.

www.sherpride.ca

www.sundarprize.com

MEDIA CONTACT

Amar Sangha

Producer, *I, Migrant*

Cell/Text: 604-842-7340

Official Website

<https://sundarprize.com/bc-culture-days/>

Registration for General Public

<https://culturedays.ca/en/hubs/56df4515-db0b-41d7-81d1-5e1ad44d57a4>

KEY CREDITS

Visual Epilogue: *Jee Ayaan (Welcome)*

Poetry: Ajmer Rode

From: *Leela* by Ajmer Rode and Navtej Bharati

Featuring: Ajmer Rode, Satwinder Bains, Mehnaaz Maan and Narinder Sharma

Director: Vinay Giridhar

Producer: Amar Sangha

Consulting Producer: Sean Farnel

Cinematography: Bhavesh Chauhan

Music: Mohamed Assani

Official Concept Poster for *I, Migrant*:

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I, MIGRANT

THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING...

COMING 2027

DIRECTED AND EDITED BY **VINAY GIRIDHAR** EXECUTIVE PRODUCER AND PRODUCER **AMAR SANGHA**
CONSULTING PRODUCER **SEAN FARNEL** MUSIC **MOHAMED ASSANI** DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY **BHAVESH CHAUHAN**
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SPECIAL THANKS TO

